

# Tidy Towns Competition 2011

## Adjudication Report

Centre: **Celbridge** Ref: **338**  
County: **Kildare** Mark: **261**  
Category: **G** Date(s): **09/06/2011**

	<b>Maximum Mark</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2010</b>	<b>Mark Awarded 2011</b>
Overall Development Approach	50	32	33
The Built Environment	50	32	33
Landscaping	50	33	34
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	50	32	33
Litter Control	50	30	28
Waste Minimisation	20	12	12
Tidiness	30	16	16
Residential Areas	40	30	31
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	50	32	33
General Impression	10	8	8
<b>TOTAL MARK</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>261</b>

### Overall Development Approach:

Your adjudicator would like to welcome Celbridge to the 2011 Tidy Towns Competition and your participation is important to the competition. Thank you for the comprehensive entry documentation and excellent map. The 3 Year plan was not received by your adjudicator though a note attached to your entry indicated that it would be sent on. You enjoy good community interaction and this is most encouraging. The School visits are really important as is your media work. Your adjudicator was very pleased to have your comments on your 2010 adjudication and do continue this in the future. The Tidy towns Awareness Survey carried out by the pupils of Primrose Hill National School were an excellent initiative and hopefully you can build on the survey results. Your work with the Celbridge Action Alliance is acknowledged.

### The Built Environment:

There are a number of interesting and important buildings in Celbridge and your close involvement with the management of Castletown House is commended. What a great amenity for local people and visitors to the town. Well done on your work in regard to new street names and shop front improvement and the Best Shop Fronts Competition is a significant initiative. The planned new lamps for the Liffey Bridge will be a significant project and your adjudicator looks forward to further progress. It was encouraging to read of the plans for further public enjoyment of Castletown House. Do continue your dialogue with business in Celbridge in respect of banners and signage. It was great to see that the old Mill has found a new and appropriate productive use. At the Catholic Church attractive landscaping was admired to the front car park area. Have you considered the development of a Celbridge Heritage Trail as you have much potential in this regard?. Projecting signage is an issue in the town and presumably you are also addressing this in your local dialogue with businesses. On the Maynooth road the attractive stone building at Colortrend was admired. Graffiti on the Church of Ireland building requires early attention. The use of the Irish language on signage is required under present legislation and this should be encouraged where appropriate. On signage the Irish

language must have the primary role.

### **Landscaping:**

The colourful planting at the town signs of the approach roads was examined and is commended as is the new planting and seat on the Ardclough Road. The Workhouse Graveyard is an important echo of the past and the trimming on the Yew trees here was noted. New shrub planting on the Clane road enhances this approach to Celbridge. Landscaping to the front of the Garda Barracks was also admired. Very good private landscaping features at The Drive and those involved are to be congratulated. At St Wolstans Abbey extensive landscaping is a key feature here. Likewise on the Primrose Hill approach to Celbridge good landscaping creates a good first impression of the town. Large green areas are a key feature of a number of estates and that at St Patrick's Park was especially admired. On the day of the visit the Grotto looked colourful and is being well maintained. Along Main Street attractive hanging baskets on well designed lighting standards contribute to the overall impact of the street. Your adjudicator reminds the Tidy Towns Committee that the cutting of roadside banks and ditches in the period 1st March to 30th August is not permitted under Section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976, incorporating section 46 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

### **Wildlife and Natural Amenities:**

The extra Bat boxes provided in the grounds of Castletown House are an important acknowledgement of the importance of local wildlife. Your adjudicator was pleased to see that the needs of wildlife were considered in your river bank cleanup programme. Has the Wildlife Survey been completed yet? Do make sure to include a summary or copy with your 2012 Tidy Towns entry.

### **Litter Control:**

Litter is an issue in various areas based on the adjudication visit. The Sunday morning litter rota seems to be excellently organised and you are commended for this important initiative. The Road Manager concept is imaginative. Along Main Street casual littering was evident and also on the access to the pedestrian river bridge. Some litter was also seen in the river here. The recycling area at the Tesco car park was well presented. Much verge litter was evident at the start of Oldtown Road. Litter was also evident along Aghards Road near the Playground and near the entrance to Thornhill Gardens.

### **Waste Minimisation:**

The Wee Ireland Recycling project in April will hopefully be repeated on an annual basis. Well done on the achievement of Green Flag status by the seven Schools and hopefully you can continue to encourage them in their work. This category is fundamentally about waste reduction in Celbridge and to this end have you considered carrying out a Waste Audit? Recycling is of a lower priority in the context of this adjudication category.

### **Tidiness:**

The removal of dumping from the river was a big undertaking and well done on getting that work completed. How is the camera surveillance approach working, is it bringing results where you need them? Your work on graffiti is acknowledged but the problem still exists in various areas. For example graffiti was evident on the ESB units at St Wolstans Abbey. On Templemill Road an untidy space beside a low stone building needs attention. Your adjudicator totally supports your campaign for the undergrounding of all overhead cabling. At the entrance to the Mill the many advertising signs on the gate detract greatly from the first impressions of this area. The gable wall to Gemini Hair Studios would be improved if painted together with the opposite gable. At the interesting and important Kildrought House the gate and railings would be improved if repainted. Watch out for grass and weed growth in alleys off Main Street and pavement advertising signs should be discouraged. At the bridge the white building has many advertising signs that detract from this approach to Celbridge. On the Dublin road just after the bridge a vacant site would be improved if screened.

### **Residential Areas:**

Many housing estates were visited and the importance of the Tidy estates Competition was obvious; the overall estate standard was quite high. The inter-estate Quiz as another important initiative. Many excellent central grass areas were admired for the quality of overall presentation and in many cases this was complimented by good landscaping. At Willow Bank attractive sloping grass banks were admired. Good trees and grass areas at The Lawn and The Meadow were admired. The Park was an impressive estate. Some kerb weed and graffiti was evident at Willowbrook Grove. Some damaged estate name signs need attention and an over use of weedkiller was evident at Thornhill Court.

**Roads, Streets and Back Areas:**

The overall presentation of approach roads impressed and especially the R449 where the imaginative use of timber posts was admired. Sculptured grass areas along this approach are superb. The Clane approach was also admired greatly. The Mill wheel near the M4 junction is an attractive feature with a heritage echo. Stone wall are a key feature of Celbridge and generally they are well maintained. Your policy to develop an avenue of trees on approach roads is fully supported by this adjudicator.

**General Impression:**

This is a very large TidyTowns entry and you have much ground to cover. The results of your good work are obvious and your adjudicator wishes your Committee well in the future.